

William Samuel Patten, Jr.



June 6, 2019

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
The Honorable Christopher Coons
United States Senate Committee on Ethics
220 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Possible misconduct by Senate Select Intelligence Committee
(Senate Resolution 400, 94th Congress, Section 8)

Dear Senator Isakson and Senator Coons:

I am writing to bring to your attention serious concerns and questions I have following my voluntary document production and voluntary interview with the Senate Select Intelligence Committee (SSCI) on October 30, 2017 and January 5, 2018, respectively. Specifically, I am concerned that confidential materials I shared with the SSCI on the understanding they would be treated confidentially¹ actually went to the media, and beyond.

At the outset of this letter, I remind you that I pleaded guilty to failing to register as a foreign agent before the U.S. District Court in Washington DC on August 31, 2018 and was sentenced by the same court on April 12th of this year². In my pleading, I admitted to providing misleading information to the SSCI, specifically in that I withheld a handful of emails from the 1,300 pages of documents I voluntarily produced. Those emails pertained to the logistics of how I acquired tickets to the 2017 Presidential Inauguration ball, and I was wrong to have done so, as I admitted in court. The issues I am bringing to your attention now are different and, I believe, are relevant substantial matters for your committee's review.

I was first contacted by SSCI in September 2017 via a phone call from James Wolfe³, then the committee's chief of security. He alerted me to an email SSCI's co-chairs had written me requesting production and availability for a staff interview. For clarification, I then contacted [REDACTED], informing her I was then on an overseas assignment and requesting a two-week production deadline extension. I also verbally sought clarification from her on the scope of their production request, and expressed concerns about confidentiality. She assured me that any breaches of confidentiality by their staff would be firing offenses.

¹ A copy of my 10/30/17 production letter to SSCI is attached

² <https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/7784479/united-states-v-patten/>

³ <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/former-us-senate-employee-sentenced-prison-term-false-statements-charge>

³ <https://www.justice.gov/usa-dc/pr/former-us-senate-employee-sentenced-prison-term-false-statements-charge>

On October 30th, I hand-delivered a cardboard box containing my production of requested communications to [REDACTED] and Wolfe at their office. In taking the box from me, Wolfe did not meet my eye contact and grunted in a fashion I could only construe as somewhat bizarre at the time. I asked [REDACTED] for a receipt and she said she would email me one later. I do not recall if I ever received this. Just before Christmas that year, [REDACTED] asked me to be available for a staff interview, at which time I retained counsel, and the interview was scheduled for January 5th. It lasted five hours.⁴

My attorney at that time, Michael Bopp with Gibson Dunn, agreed in advance with [REDACTED] that FARA-related questions would not be raised in the interview because he was not an expert on that area of law and would require more time to prepare. As the SSCI was anxious to proceed, they told him they would not address FARA issues. Regardless of this agreement, during the interview committee staff asked me multiple times about FARA and my honest responses were later used to convict me. At the conclusion of the interview, one of the convening staff asked me to contact my now former business associate, Konstantin Kilimnik, and relay their request that he too come in for an interview.

In good faith, I called Kilimnik immediately on returning home, less than one hour from the interview's conclusion. At that time, Kilimnik informed me that he had already been contacted by *BuzzFeed* journalist Anthony Cormier, who asked about materials that I had produced to SSCI. I have preserved Cormier's note to Kilimnik and shared it with the Office of Special Counsel and Department of Justice⁵. Cormier queried Kilimnik specifically about a now-defunct US-registered limited liability company, Begemot Ventures International, whose existence I had only disclosed to SSCI. Bear in mind that Kilimnik was then located in Moscow, so any materials that I provided SSCI and that Cormier raised with him constituted not only a potential breach of SSCI's confidentiality agreement with me, but also a leak with potential national security consequences.

A couple months later, specifically in early April, I began to receive media inquiries about Begemot myself. Reporters cited what I later learned were doctored registration documents posted on a suspicious Twitter account⁶, but not having anything to hide, I spoke openly with two journalists from *The Daily Beast*⁷ and *The Atlantic*⁸. Those articles⁹ appeared the day before and the day after the FBI came to my home and issued a warrant for my smartphone and a subpoena signed by the Special Counsel to appear before a grand jury. Shortly thereafter, I began an eleven-month period of cooperation with the Justice Department that continued through my sentencing¹⁰.

⁴ The Senate voted to release my SSCI transcript to counsel for Paul J. Manafort in the evening of 9/13/18. The following morning, Manafort pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Washington. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/senate-votes-to-authorize-intel-committee-to-produce-documents-related-to-paul-manafort/>

⁵ If your Committee can assure an adequate guarantee of confidentiality, bearing in mind the circumstances that lead to this letter, I will share it with you.

⁶ Screenshot attached

⁷ In a private conversation in the fall of 2018, Daily Beast editor-in-chief Noah Shachtman asked me: "Did it ever occur to you that you've been set up?"

⁸ Attached please find a TDIP brief citing conversations between Natasha Bertrand, the author of The Atlantic piece, and SSCI staff.

⁹ <https://www.thedailybeast.com/accused-russian-intel-asset-teamed-up-with-gop-operative-3> and <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/04/a-dc-operatives-long-relationship-with-a-suspected-russian-spy/557438/>

¹⁰ <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow/watch/prosecutors-praise-patten-help-in-a-number-of-unnamed-cases-1482663491943>

These media interventions are troubling in view of more recently available information about the activities of a privately funded organization so-called The Democracy Integrity Project (TDIP) headed by a former SSCI staffer, Daniel Jones¹¹. According to consistent investigative reporting, Jones issued daily bulletins to journalists on the Russia investigations with suggested leads and source materials. Several of his media outreach communications in early 2018, which is curious as my interactions with the SSCI had been discrete and, ostensibly, confidential.

In no way do I diminish or seek to absolve myself of responsibility for the crime to which I have pleaded guilty and been sentenced. But I do have two specific questions for the SSCI for which I seek your assistance in getting answers:

1. What exact role did former SSCI chief of security James Wolfe (who later pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his relationship with a *BuzzFeed* journalist) have in the handling of my production? and
2. What communications did SSCI members, and/or committee staff, have with Daniel Jones and/or any associate of his between October 30, 2017 and April 5, 2018 concerning me, my production, and/or my interview?

Again, I am solely responsible for failing to register for FARA, and I have paid and am paying the price for this. But if sensitive materials regarding my voluntary cooperation with SSCI were used to advance a heavily politicized narrative about Russian collusion in the 2016 presidential campaign, that should be a matter of concern for any American who in the future might consider good faith cooperation with the SSCI. If indeed there have been abuses, it is my solemn hope that you will take action to ensure that what happened to me does not happen to anyone else.

Sincerely,



William S. Patten, Jr.

CC: Senator Richard Burr
Senator Mark Warner

Enclosures: 10/30/17 SSCI production cover letter
Natasha Bertrand Twitter feed
"Rampart," a.k.a. "imthemadridsta" Twitter feed
Sample TDIP Daily Brief

¹¹ https://www.realclearinvestigations.com/articles/2019/03/11/trump-russia_20_dossier-tied_firm_sending_dc_journalists_daily_collusion_briefings.html

Sam Patten



October 30, 2017

Senator Richard Burr, Chair
Senator Mark Warner, Vice-Chair
US Senate Select Committee
on Intelligence
US Senate
Washington, DC 20515

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: Transmittal letter

Dear Chairman Burr and Vice-Chairman Warner:

In response to your 9/22 letter to me requesting documents, and my subsequent discussion with [REDACTED] I am writing to provide the enclosed email communications between myself and Konstantin V. Kilimnik between June 16, 2015 and the present. Also enclosed are records of bank transfers made between Begemot Ventures International and Mr. Kilimnik, a co-owner of that firm.

These are business confidential materials whose public release could damage our privileged relations with our clients. I appreciate the diligence your Committee has placed thus far on running a tight ship, and am producing these documents at your request and with the understanding that your staff will maintain these materials for your review, and protect their confidentiality. Each email and document has been marked accordingly.

As discussed with [REDACTED] I am a small businessman without administrative support, and the production of nearly 1,000 pages of material has been time-consuming to say the least. If you or your staff have/has additional questions about these materials or the issues they discuss, I am available to answer these.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Patten".

Sam Patten

Enclosures

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#CMTawards

126K Tweets

#grownish

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#VoxAdpocalypse

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4,531 Tweets

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5,810 Tweets

Natasha Bertrand

@NatashaBertrand

National security correspondent @politico. @MSNBC contributor. Send tips: nbertrand@politico.com nbertrand@protonmail.com. DM for Signal.

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Mueller, She Wrote Podcast @MuellerSheWrote · 2 Sep 2018

Felony Friday with Sam Patten (feat. Natasha Bertrand & Grant Stern)

Felony Friday with Sam Patten (feat. Natasha Bertr...)

Ep #44 - Joining us this week is Natasha Bertrand, MSNBC contributor and staff writer for The Atlantic. We also have Grant Stern, an investigative re... traffic.libsyn.com

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14

103


RAMPART @imthemadridista · 1 Sep 2018

Maddow: "Why did you write about Sam Patten back in April for the Atlantic?"

Natasha Bertrand: "I got a tip that Konstantin Kilimnik actually was not just operating overseas. He had actually opened up this company in 2015, with this operative Sam Patten."



Thread

**RAMPART** @imthemadridista · 3/30/18

SCOOP: It appears KONSTANTIN KILIMNIK set up a lobbying firm in Washington, DC, Incorporation Date: Feb 19, 2015, using Legalinc Corporate Services. (legalinc.com)

No apparent active/inactive FARA filing for Kilimnik or Begemot Ventures International.
(Mini-Thread) /1

Begemot Ventures Inter

Company Number	EXTL00_4160879
Native Company Number	U000001408671
Status	Active
Incorporation Date	19 February 2015 (EST)
Company Type	Limited Liability Company
Jurisdiction	District of Columbia (US)
Registered Address	1220 Constitution Ave N Washington 20002 District of Columbia United States
Agent Name	LEGALINC CORPORATE
Agent Address	1001 O STREET NW Washington 20004
Directors / Officers	Ken Brown, president Konstantin Kilimnik, CEO LEGALINC CORPORATE



32

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824

**RAMPART** @imthemadridista · 3/30/18

Konstantin Kilimnik's Begemot Ventures International: A strategic & political advisory firm that helps its clients win elections, strengthen political parties,

Tweet your reply



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TDIP News Brief: February 12, 2019

1. On Tuesday, NBC News reported that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) is nearing the end of its investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election, citing Senate investigators on both sides of the aisle and comments made by Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC). In a statement, Burr doubled down on comments made last week about the committee's findings, telling NBC News: "*There is no factual evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia.*"

- Hours later, Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), the vice chairman of the committee, rejected Burr's characterization of the probe, arguing that the investigation is still ongoing and that the committee still had to interview key witnesses. Warner stated: "*Respectfully, I disagree... I'm not going to get into any conclusions I've reached because my basis of this has been that I'm not going to reach any conclusion until we finish the investigation. And we still have a number of the key witnesses to come back.*"
- Democratic Senate investigators told NBC News that it may take six or seven months to write their final report once they complete witness interviews.
- Following Burr's comments, Natasha Bertrand, a reporter for The Atlantic, also tweeted that a SSCI aide told her that there is a "common set of facts" that the SSCI is working with, and a "disagreement about what those facts mean." The SSCI aide added: "*We are closer to the end than the beginning, but we're not wrapping up.*"

2. *The Daily Beast* reports that a little-known Swiss company, Salix Services AG, has come under the scrutiny of the Special Counsel Robert Mueller for its connection to Psy-Group, an Israeli firm that created a social media manipulation plan to assist the 2016 Trump campaign.

Former employees of Psy-Group said the FBI has questioned them about the firm's ownership structure, which includes a chain of opaque entities registered in the British Virgin Islands and ending with Salix Services, a financial services group in Zurich.

3. On Monday, prosecutors filed a sealed update in federal court in the case against Sam Patten, a Republican consultant and associate of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort who pleaded guilty in August 2018 to failing to register as a foreign agent for his lobbying work in Ukraine. Patten is tied to Manafort and his longtime associate, Konstantin Kilimnik, who reportedly has links to Russian intelligence. As part of Patten's plea agreement, he pledged to cooperate and provide information to Special Counsel Robert Mueller and other federal prosecutors.

4. On Monday, President Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, cancelled his testimony before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI), citing medical reasons. Cohen was previously scheduled to testify before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) last week, but that appearance was postponed by the committee. Cohen also "*indefinitely postponed*" his scheduled public testimony before the House Oversight and Reform Committee earlier this month, arguing that the president's public comments about his case put him and his family in danger.

5. *The New Yorker*'s Jeffrey Toobin interviewed Roger Stone, President Trump's longtime political adviser who was indicted by Special Counsel Robert Mueller last month, and Jerome Corsi, a conservative author and conspiracy theorist, in a piece published on Monday.

- In the wide-ranging interview, Stone stated that he plans to testify in his defense, adding: "*We're going to fight them on every piece of evidence, fight them on every witness. We are going to concede nothing.*"
- Stone also detailed his past business relationship to Manafort, saying Manafort is guy who was "*very familiar with the rules.*"
- Corsi revealed that he first worked with President Trump to conduct "*birtherism research*" on President Obama.
- Corsi also criticized the Mueller investigation, saying: "*The United States under the Deep State masters has begun to descend into a political Hell that I previously thought could only happen under*